

**Amendment to the Claims**

1. (Currently Amended) A vascular prosthesis comprising:  
\_\_\_\_\_ a flexible duct that is elastically deformable lengthwise; ~~the prosthesis including~~  
\_\_\_\_\_ adjustable means for fixing the spacing between two distant sections of the  
length of the flexible duct, the flexible duct extending beyond at least one of the first and  
second sections so as to form at least one segment that is elastically deformable  
lengthwise.
  
2. (Currently Amended) A vascular prosthesis according to claim 1, wherein the  
adjustable means for fixing the spacing comprise a spacer having one end secured to  
the first section of the flexible duct and having an opposite end presenting means for  
securing to ~~a second~~ the second section that is selected along the length of the duct.
  
3. (Original) A vascular prosthesis according to claim 2, wherein the flexible duct is  
engaged around the spacer between the first and second sections.
  
4. (Currently Amended) A vascular prosthesis according to claim 3, wherein the  
adjustable means further comprises ~~wherein the~~ retention means for fixing the spacing  
between the first and second section, the retention means comprising ~~comprise~~ a ring  
engaged around the flexible duct, the ring and the spacer having complementary  
resilient engagement means suitable for securing the ring to the second end of the  
spacer with the flexible duct being clamped and retained between the ring and the

spacer.

5. (Currently Amended) A vascular prosthesis according to claim 2, wherein the spacer comprises a hollow tube having an diameter that is substantially equal to the inside diameter of said the flexible duct.
6. (Original) A vascular prosthesis according to claim 2, wherein the first section of the flexible duct is sewn to the first end of the spacer.
7. (Original) A vascular prosthesis according to claim 6, wherein the hollow tube includes a flared portion at its first end.
8. (Original) A vascular prosthesis according to claim 1, wherein the flexible duct is corrugated.
9. (Original) A vascular prosthesis according to claim 1, wherein the flexible duct includes fasteners preinstalled at each of its ends.
10. (New) A vascular prosthesis comprising:
  - a flexible duct that is elastically deformable in a lengthwise direction;
  - a tubular member disposed inside the flexible duct, the tubular member having a first end fixed to a first section of the flexible duct and a second end; and

a retaining element disposed outside of the flexible duct and engagable with the second end of the tubular member to secure a second section of the flexible duct thereby fixing the spacing between the first and second sections of the flexible duct, wherein the flexible duct extends beyond at least one of the first and second sections so as to form at least one segment that is elastically deformable in the lengthwise direction.

11. (New) The vascular prosthesis as claimed in claim 10, wherein the first end of the tubular member is flared outwardly toward the inner peripheral surface of the flexible duct.

12. (New) The vascular prosthesis as claimed in claim 11, wherein the second end of the tubular member includes an outer peripheral bead, and the retaining element has an inner peripheral groove for receiving the bead.

13. (New) The vascular prosthesis as claimed in claim 10, wherein the retention element comprises a ring disposed around the flexible duct, the ring includes an inner peripheral groove for engaging the second end of the tubular member to clamp the second section of the flexible duct.

14. (New) The vascular prosthesis as claimed in claim 10, wherein the tubular element has an outer diameter that is substantially equal to the inside diameter of the flexible

duct.

15. (New) The vascular prosthesis as claimed in claim 10, wherein the first section of the flexible duct is sewn to the first end of the tubular member.

16. (New) The vascular prosthesis according to claim 10, wherein the flexible duct is corrugated.

17. (New) The vascular prosthesis as claimed in claim 10, wherein the flexible duct includes fasteners for connecting the flexible duct to end segments of a fluid conduit.

18. (New) The vascular prosthesis as claimed in claim 10, wherein the tubular member is rigid.